



## DRILLING COMMENCES AT THE BYRO CRITICAL MINERALS PROJECT FOLLOWING EXCELLENT BIOLEACHING RECOVERIES

### Highlights

- **Maiden exploration drill program underway at the Byro Critical Minerals Project in the Gascoyne region of WA.**
- **The 1100m air core drill program follows successful bioleaching testwork achieved by two, independent experts, CSIRO & BiotaTec on the Byro material.**
- **Drilling is targeting the Permian black shale largely within the Coyrie formation and will cover an area of 10km x 8km to an approximate depth of 60m.**
- **The drilling program will also enable collection of fresh sample material for larger scale bioleaching testwork.**

Octava Minerals Ltd (ASX:OCT) (“**Octava**” or the “**Company**”), an Australian focused explorer of critical minerals is pleased to announce it has commenced its maiden exploration program at its Byro Critical Minerals Project in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia.

The 1100m drill program will cover an area of approximately 10km x 8km is expected to take about 2 weeks to complete. This drilling will provide additional material for bioleaching testwork and provide a basis for determining an exploration target for the Byro black shale, the key host material for REE’s, Li and V.

This drill program follows the successful bioleaching testwork carried out in 2025 by two independent consulting groups, CSIRO & BiotaTec on the Byro black shale material. The testwork recorded excellent recoveries of rare earths, lithium and vanadium using lab grown microbes. The results indicate significant potential for a large, environmentally sustainable, heap leach operation at Byro. (refer ASX announcements 21 August 2025 and 2 October 2025)

### About the Byro Project

The Byro Project is located on the Byro Plains of the Gascoyne Region, Western Australia, 220km south-east of Carnarvon and 650 km north of Perth. It consists of two granted Exploration Licences – E 09/2673 and E 09/2674 – totalling 555 km<sup>2</sup>.



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**Board Members**  
Clayton Dodd – Chairman  
Damon O’Meara – Non – Executive Director  
Feiyu Qi – Non – Executive Director  
Bevan Wakelam – Managing Director / CEO

**Projects**  
Federation – copper, zinc, silver  
Byro – REE’s & lithium  
Yallalong – antimony, gold & nickel  
East Kimberley – nickel & PGM’s

The Byro Project has Native Title agreements in place and nearby infrastructure includes accessibility to a commercial port (Geraldton) and power from the NW gas pipeline and future potential access to Western Australian government proposed green energy sites.



**Photo 1. Drilling at Byro Project in Western Australia**

### **Exploration Drill program**

Historic exploration identified the Permian black shales of the Byro sub basin as having the potential to contain a large accumulation of critical minerals, along ~25km of strike and ~10km in width. Metals from black shales are successfully extracted using bioleaching at projects such as the Talvivaara Mine in Finland.

Following the excellent biomining / bioleaching recoveries achieved from the initial test program (Refer to OCT:ASX Release 2 October 2025) Octava has commenced exploration drilling at Byro with the objective of outlining an exploration target.

An air-core drill program comprising approximately 18 holes for around 1100 meters will target the Permian black shale material within the Coyrie Formation, which is the basal unit of the Byro group (Refer ASX Announcement 9 October 2025).

The holes will be drilled on a 2km x 2km grid, centred on the two Octava diamond drill holes that provided sample material for bioleaching testwork. The footprint of the drill program roughly covers an area of 10,000m (10km) x 8,000m (8km) to a depth of approximately 60m and is targeting higher grade material. Based on historic exploration, Byro has the potential to host substantially large, in-situ tonnages of critical minerals.

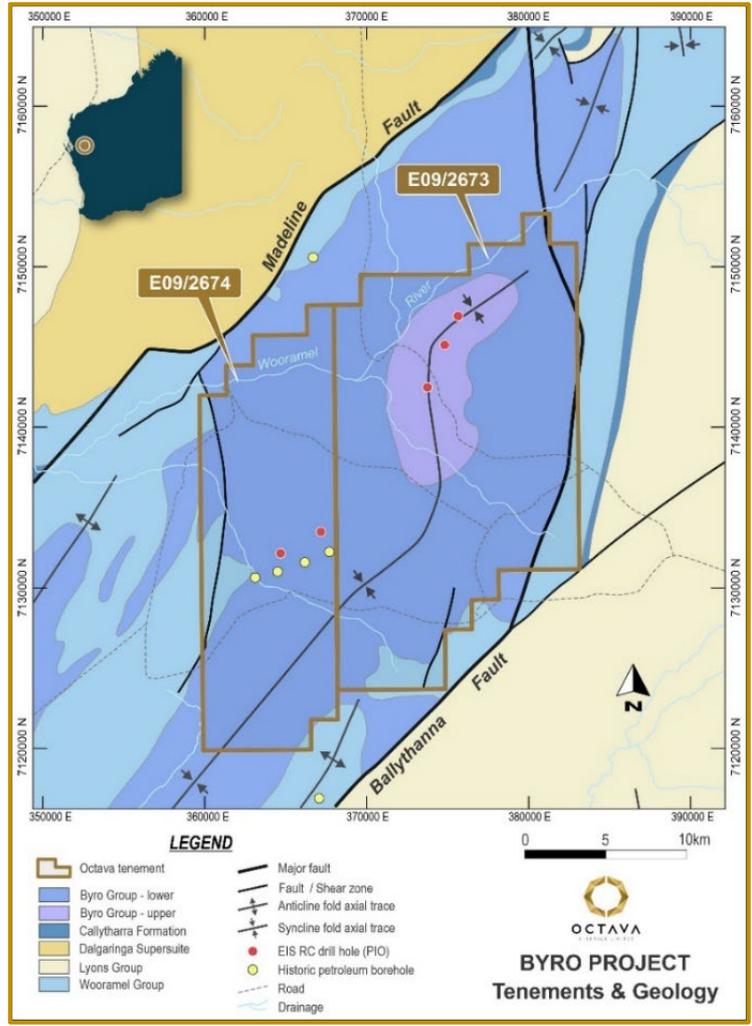


Figure 1. Byro Location Map with historic drillholes.



Photo 2. Black shale cuttings from historic drilling at Byro Project.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Managing Director/CEO.

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### **About Octava Minerals Ltd**

Octava Minerals Limited (ASX:OCT) is a Western Australian based exploration company. The Company has strategically located projects in geographically proven discovery areas within Australia.

### **Competent Person Statements**

Where Octava references previously announced Exploration and Metallurgical Results in this report it refers to references under the heading Previously Released ASX Material. Octava confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters in those announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed.

Where information in this report relates to previous exploration results that was prepared and first disclosed under a pre-2012 edition of the JORC code. It is the opinion of Octava that the exploration data is reliable. Nothing has come to the attention of Octava that causes it to question the accuracy or reliability of the historic exploration results.

Octava confirms that the form and context of the respective competent persons' findings in relation to those reports have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

### **Forward looking Statements**

This announcement includes certain "forward looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurances that such statements will prove accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Such information contained herein represents management's best judgement as of the date hereof based on information currently available. The Company does not assume any obligation to update forward looking statements.

### **Previously Released ASX Material**

ASX:OCT 2 October 2025

ASX:OCT 21 August 2025

ASX:OCT 25 June 2025

ASX:OCT 25 February 2025

ASX:OCT 24 January 2024

ASX:OCT